

*"Strong minds, strong lives,
strong families through
quality mental health
professionals."*

BBS News

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
Spring 2006 - Issue No. 15

Value that License, Remember Your Continuing Education Units

Renewing a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) or Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) license involves much more than simply filling out a renewal form and paying the required fee. As most MFTs and LCSWs probably know, a licensee must complete 36 hours of continuing education (CE) to keep his or her license on an active status with the Board of Behavioral Sciences. Licensees renewing for the first time are an exception. These licensees must complete at least 18 hours of CE. Non-compliance with mandatory CE course requirements may result in the issuance of a citation and/or fine from the Board. Some CE mandatory coursework requirements may be one-time requirements or recurring requirements due with each renewal. The 6-hour Law and Ethics requirement is currently the only recurring mandatory requirement.

Where to Get the Information

The Board's website, www.bbs.ca.gov, is a great resource for keeping up on the current CE requirements. From the homepage of the Board's website, select "Continuing Education" from the list of links on the left. This page contains all you need to know regarding mandatory courses required for license renewal.

CE Audits

To ensure licensees complete the mandatory CE coursework, the Board conducts random CE audits of licensees on a regular basis. The law requires all licensees to retain continuing education certificates for at least two years. If a licensee receives an audit letter, the licensee will be required to send in the copies of the certificates to the Board within 30 days from the date on the audit letter.

Since July 1, 2005, the Board has issued 66 CE related citations. Citations require the non-compliant licensee to pay a fine and in some cases complete deficient coursework. Failure to comply with a citation from the Board may result in formal disciplinary action against the licensee. CE citations are public information. Consumer's seeking to verify a license on the Board's website will see a notation indicating a citation has been issued.

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Message from the Board Chair

Peter Manoleas

From my Northern California perspective, March is indeed coming in like a lion. Sitting indoors, protected from the wind and rain, I am afforded the opportunity to reflect on recent Board accomplishments. It has scarcely been three months since the Board adopted its new strategic plan, and it is already being implemented at an impressive pace. In a general sense, the plan speaks to continuous quality improvement efforts in our campaigns to protect the public, to increased transparency of Board processes and increased public inclusion, to the extent permitted by law. A variety of objectives exist from reducing response times for new applicants and the investigation of complaint allegations to maintaining the Board's budgetary integrity, and learning ways the Board can respond to California's ever more diverse consumers. We have reorganized our subcommittee structure to align with the objectives of the strategic plan, and the subcommittees now meet at different times than the quarterly full Board meetings. It is our hope that, despite the proliferation of meetings involved, Board stakeholders broaden, and that all feel included and informed. Our preliminary indications are that this is indeed happening.

Our new board members have "hit the ground running", and I am especially grateful to them for their eager participation despite the substantial learning curve involved. The energy and expertise brought by these members is already showing results in the board's quest to constantly improve in terms of meeting its public protection mandate. Board members have begun joining staff in outreach efforts to educational institutions and professional organizations as well as a variety of mental health and health conferences.

We are especially excited about the upcoming Board sponsored conference entitled, "California's Diverse Mental Health Consumers: Implications for Licensure - A Working Conference", to be held in Sacramento on April 28 of this year. It is our hope that this conference will be an exploration of the Board's role in meeting the mental health needs of diverse Californians, quite possibly resulting in some policy initiatives. The broadest public participation in this conference is encouraged; I hope to see you there.

Board Welcomes New Members

Gordonna "Donna" Di Giorgio

Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Gordonna "Donna" Di Giorgio to the Board in September of 2005. In addition to serving on the Board, she has dedicated herself to mentoring and counseling women in a program of recovery from alcohol and drug addiction. Donna, who is also a full time mother, previously worked as an operations manager with Shearson American Express in San Francisco and Palm Springs. She also keeps a passion for art, particularly painting. Her work has appeared in shows at Stanford and in San Francisco. By volunteering at elementary and middle schools, she stimulates interest for the arts in children, teaching art and art appreciation. Donna is also well traveled as she has lived in Iran and London. Her term expires on June 1, 2007.

Joan Huberman Walmsley

Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Joan Huberman Walmsley as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker member to the Board of Behavioral Sciences in November of 2005. Joan moved to California in 1987 and has worked in a variety of mental health settings, including private psychiatric hospitals, and functioned as Clinical Director for a number of non-profit adolescent residential treatment settings. Joan supervises individuals pursuing both the MFT and LCSW licenses in the Irvine Unified School District. She also has her own private practice and is a certified addiction counselor. Since 1990, Joan has actively participated in the Board's examination process, beginning as an Oral Examiner and serving as a Lead Examiner from 1998-2000. In 1998, Joan became a Subject Matter Expert for the Board to assist in the examination development process.

Joan currently resides in Southern California with her husband and their three school age children.

***The Mission of the Board is
to protect the well being of Californians by setting
standards for mental health professionals
through effective communication, education,
examination, licensing and enforcement.***

Office Move Completed!

The Board successfully moved to its new office location in early December. The Board mailed a notice out to all licensees and registrants with the Board's new address: 1625 N Market Blvd. Suite S-200, Sacramento, CA 95834.

This move represented a huge effort on behalf of both the employees at the Board and other entities within the Department of Consumer Affairs.

The move to the new office coincided with the implementation of a new telephone system. The prior telephone numbers and extensions are now disconnected. The Board's new main number is (916) 574-7830. Callers can also reach evaluators and other employees at the Board directly without navigating through the phone tree. A list of the most frequently requested numbers here at the Board can be found below along with directions from two major freeways directly to the Board's new office.

How to Reach Us



Directions from I-5 (North and South)

Take I-5 towards Sacramento
Exit on Arena Blvd and head East
Continue East on Arena Blvd as it becomes N Market Blvd
1625 N Market Blvd will be on your left

Directions from I-80 (East and West)

Take I-80 towards Sacramento
Exit on Truxel Rd. and travel North
Turn Right on Arena Blvd.
Arena Blvd. becomes N Market Blvd.
1625 N Market Blvd will be on your left

Phone Directory for Frequently Requested Numbers



Main Number	(916) 574-7830
MFT Evaluator (A-K)	(916) 574-7854
MFT Evaluator (L-Z)	(916) 574-7853
MFT Intern Reg. Evaluator	(916) 574-7855
ASW/LCSW Evaluator	(916) 574-7851
ASW/LCSW Evaluator	(916) 574-7852
Continuing Education Coordinator	(916) 574-7869
Renewal Cashier (A-K)	(916) 574-7858
Renewal Cashier (L-Z)	(916) 574-7857
Special Testing Accommodations	(916) 574-7860
Complaints/Enforcement	(916) 574-7868
Outreach Coordinator	(916) 574-7863
Fax	(916) 574-8625
Cashiering Fax	(916) 574-8626
TDD Number	(916) 322-1700

The Most Common Mistake

The majority of licensees receiving citations due to CE related violations do complete the necessary 36 hours, but they overlook the mandatory requirements. Of the last 50 CE citations the Board issued, 68 percent of those cited completed 36 hours of CE but failed to complete one or all of the mandatory courses. Information regarding the mandatory CE requirements is available through the Board website, in a brochure available via the Board's request line, and over the phone through the CE line. Each licensee is responsible for knowing and completing the mandatory CE requirements.

**CE REQUIREMENTS FOR
MFT's AND LCSW's**

36 CE HOURS REQUIRED TO RENEW

18 hours of CE are required for your first renewal, but that is a MINIMUM, not a maximum. All mandated courses are required for your first renewal.

Spousal/Partner Abuse

If the course is taken before January 1, 2005, there is no hour length specified. If the course is taken after January 1, 2005, it must be seven hours.

Aging and Long Term Care

Three hour requirement

HIV / AIDS

Seven hour requirement

If you have taken any of the courses noted above in the past, you are not required to repeat it.

Law and Ethics

Six hour requirement

Law and Ethics must be taken for each renewal.

No licensee wants to receive a citation and/or fine. If you hold an LCSW or MFT license, check the Board's website early and often about CE requirements. Value your license. Pay attention to those mandatory CE requirements.

Double Check Renewal Applications

The Board receives thousands of renewal applications from licensees and registrants each month. A significant number of these applications are not complete, delaying the processing of the renewal applications.

The Board requires 4-6 weeks to process a renewal application. This processing time increases when a person sends in an incomplete renewal application. "Double-checking" a renewal application for completion before sending it is a great way to ensure timely processing of renewals.



Renewals require the Associate, Intern, LEP, MFT or LCSW to answer a question about subsequent arrests since the last renewal period.

MFTs and LCSWs are also required to certify that they have completed the required hours of continuing education within the last two years or have been granted an exception by the Board. The renewal form must be signed, dated and mailed to the Board with the appropriate fee(s) for processing.

Performing a simple "double-check" of a renewal application saves the Board and the licensee or registrant time, and ensures timely processing. It's a win-win situation.

BBS in Search of Subject Matter Experts

Interested in giving back to the profession and broadening your knowledge?

The BBS is looking for good candidates to serve as Subject Matter Experts. Clinicians who serve as Subject Matter Experts participate in workshops throughout the year. These workshops, conducted in Sacramento, focus on the various aspects of examination development. At the workshops, participants are trained to write and review test questions, select “good” test items to include in new “versions” of the licensing examinations, and evaluate the new examination versions to determine the difficulty of the questions. Subject Matter Experts are compensated for participation in the various examination development workshops, with travel expenses either prepaid or reimbursed by the Board.

To be a Subject Matter Expert, licensees **MUST** meet the following requirements:

- ◆ Hold a degree as specified in California Business and Professions code section 4980.49 (a), 4986.20(a), or 4996.2(b)
- ◆ Maintain a license that is currently renewed and not under suspension or probation
- ◆ Agree not to participate *at any time* in any examination coaching or preparation activities
- ◆ Perform twenty to forty hours of training, supervision, education or clinical experience with a minimum of ten hour face-to-face psychotherapy per week

If you meet the qualifications listed above and are interested in assisting the Board with the crucial task of examination development, please visit the “Forms and Publications” section of the Board’s website, www.bbs.ca.gov/bbsforms, and download a “Subject Matter Expert Application.” For questions regarding becoming a Subject Matter Expert, please contact Elina Taylor in the Examination Unit at (916) 574-7861.

Board Meeting Calendar



May 18-19, 2006 - Sacramento
July 27-28, 2006 - San Diego, CA
November 16-17, 2006 - Bay area

Board and Committee meetings are open to the public. Board members discuss and/or take action on various issues relating to the professions regulated by the Board at Board and Committee meetings. You are encouraged to attend the Board’s meetings, and are welcomed to provide input regarding issues the Board is considering, or pertinent topics that are of interest to you!

Any changes in Board Meeting dates, as well as minutes from Board and Committee Meetings, are available on the Board’s website at www.bbs.ca.gov.



License Renewal Update

The Board now mails out courtesy license and registrant renewal applications 120 days in advance of the expiration date. This gives licensees and registrants a full **FOUR** months notice. The renewal application is mailed out to the licensee’s or registrant’s address of record that the Board has on file.

Do not put yourself up against a wall. Do not wait until a week before the expiration date to mail in your license or registration renewal. Get those renewals in early.

Understanding The Board's Budget

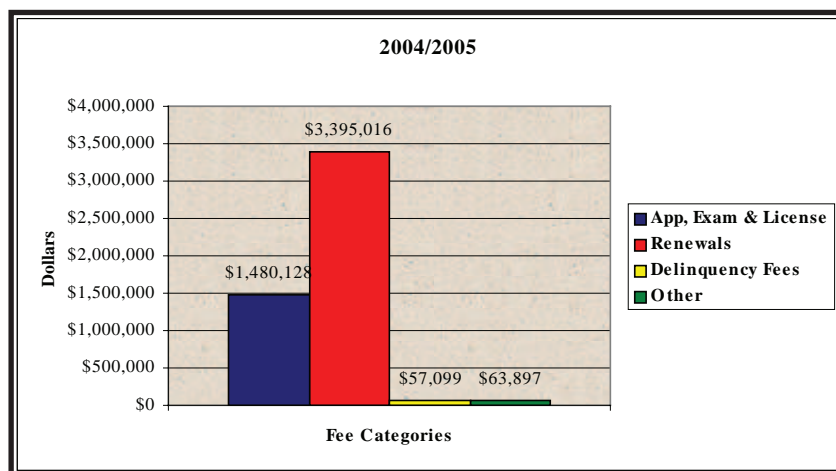
Budget

A budget is a spending plan. It sets and controls how much the Board can spend and on what it can be spent. Every year the State Legislature and Governor approve the Board's budget as part of the "Governor's Budget". The Board is required by law to remain within this budget and must insure that the funds to cover the expenses exist within the Board's fund. The Board's budget for 2005/2006 is \$4,975,373. This budget includes both Personal Services (personnel expenses) and Operating Expenses, which include all other expenses. This budget authorizes 28.3 personnel years ("PY"), which means that the Board is authorized to employ 28 people; and the Board cannot hire a new employee unless they have a vacant position or a newly authorized position.

Revenue

The Board generates revenue through the collection of fees, including application, examination, licensing and renewal fees. The Board receives no tax dollars. In 2004/2005 the Board collected \$4,990,000 in fees. The breakdown of revenue received by category is listed below:

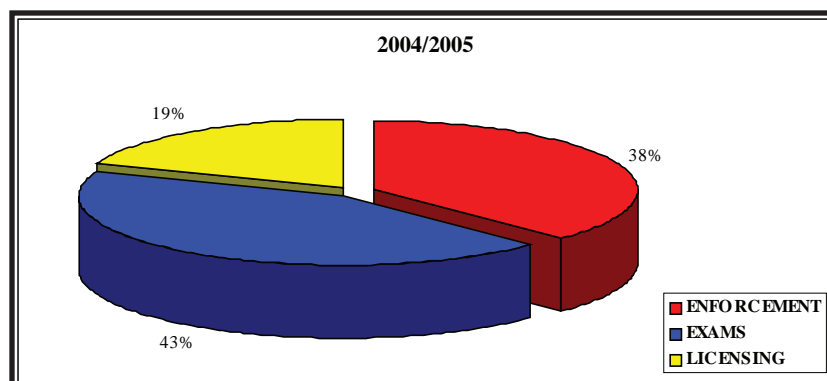
Breakdown of Revenue by Fee Category



Expenditures

The revenue generated from these fees support the Licensing, Examination and Enforcement Programs at the Board. Listed below are the percentages of the Board's budget that is spent in each Program Component.

Expenditures by Program Component



Fund Condition

Revenue is deposited into the Behavioral Sciences Fund. This fund is considered a “special fund” because the Board is not part of the State’s General Fund. All fees collected by the Board are deposited into the Behavioral Sciences Fund and used specifically for funding Board operations. The funds are invested by the State Treasurer’s Office, and in 2004/2005 the Board earned \$92,000 in interest.

The Board currently has a strong fund balance, showing 11 months in reserve. There is a state mandate that prevents the Board from exceeding a two-year operating budget or 24 months in reserve. Should this happen, the Board would be required to reduce fees. In addition, in 2002/2003 the Board made a \$6 million loan to the General Fund from the Behavioral Sciences Fund. The language for this loan states that it will be repaid to the Board when it becomes necessary. Due to the Board’s strong fund balance, repayment of the loan is not necessary at this time. Listed below is a history of the Board’s Fund Balance for the last five years.

Behavioral Sciences Fund Balance

	Actual 2002-2003	Actual 2003-2004	Actual 2004-2005	Projected 2005-2006	Projected 2006-2007
FUND BALANCE	\$1,786,000*	\$3,008,000	\$4,090,000	\$4,506,000	\$4,833,000
Months in Reserve	4.7	7.9	10.2	11.0	11.6
*6.0 Million General Fund Loan Outstanding					

BBS Licensee / Registrant Statistics*

Licensed Clinical Social Workers	16,252
Licensed Educational Psychologists	1,708
Marriage and Family Therapists	27,588
Associate Clinical Social Workers	6,435
MFT Interns	9,632
Continuing Education Providers	2,195
MFT Referral Services	23
Total:	63,833

** This reflects the number of valid licensees and registrants with the Board as of April 1, 2006*

BBS Website Subscriber Tool

Sit back, and let the information come to you.

The BBS has a fantastic “subscriber’s tool” available on its website. Licensees, registrants, school faculty, and anybody interested in the professions of Marriage and Family Therapy, Licensed Clinical Social Work, or Licensed Educational Psychology should sign up for this service. This service provides updates on Board Meetings, newsletters, examination issues, enforcement actions, and statutes and regulations. Subscribers have no excuse to not stay informed.

Even better, this service is free!

To sign up, log on to the homepage of the Board’s website, www.bbs.ca.gov. On the left hand side of the page, you will find a list of links to different sections of the website. Below this list of links, you will see a flashing red note saying, “Sign Up for Email Advisories.” Click on this flashing notice, follow the instructions, and you are well on your way to staying updated and informed on the most current happenings at the Board.



Reminder: Check Out Those CE Providers!

When thinking about taking a class from a particular Continuing Education provider, licensees or registrants should verify the status of the provider to make sure the provider has a current approval from the Board. If a provider does not have a current CE provider number, any classes offered while the provider is expired are invalid. To verify a CE provider number, go to the “Verify and Search Licenses” section of the Board’s website.

Why Certify When You Can Verify?

Interested in saving time and money?

Many employers, registrants, licensees, and consumers often request information on a person’s license or registration. The Board offers two options for obtaining official information on a licensee or registrant.

The first option, a license verification, costs nothing, is instantaneous, and is available online through the Board’s website. The information available through this online verification system comes directly from the database used in the Board’s office and is updated daily. The verification provides information on a licensee or registrant’s

current status, address of record, and information on any past disciplinary action taken against the license. The link for “Verify & Search Licenses” is on the left side of the BBS homepage, www.bbs.ca.gov.

The second option is to request a license certification in writing that provides essentially the same information to the requestor that he or she could find on the Board website. The only significant difference between the two would be the presence of the Board’s seal on a certification. This seal is not available on any verification performed over the website.

A license certification takes about four to six weeks to process and costs twenty-five dollars.

Because they are fast, official, and free, online license verifications are a great option for individuals or employers seeking to verify a license or registration.

New Pre-Licensure Coursework Information

Save Money, Save Time, Knock It Out Before You Graduate!

Yes, some of the classes a person takes in his or her graduate program can fulfill the Board's additional pre-licensure coursework requirements.

Any person applying for an LCSW or MFT license must complete pre-licensure required coursework. *(See chart below)* This coursework differs depending on what license you seek. Pre-licensure required coursework refers to classes that need to be completed prior to sending in an application for licensure. This coursework may be integrated into the degree program in some cases, but if not, the prospective licensee must complete pre-licensure coursework prior to applying for MFT or LCSW licensure. Even if a person completes all the required hours of experience, the Board cannot approve an application for entry into the exam process until the applicant completes all mandatory coursework.

Recently, the Board added information to its website indicating which classes from each California school offering qualifying MFT or LCSW degrees fulfill these pre-licensure coursework requirements.

The direct web address for this page is <http://www.bbs.ca.gov/lic-req.htm>. From this page select either "Additional Training Required Prior to Licensure as a MFT" or "Additional Training Required Prior to Licensure as a LCSW." At the bottom of each required coursework page, a link will take you to a list of the accredited schools in California offering MFT or LCSW qualifying degree programs. From here, find your school and select "Additional Courses Required."

If you plan on getting licensed, check this list. Doing so could save you time and money in signing up and taking classes for requirements already met in your graduate program.

MFT Pre-Licensure Required Coursework

Child Abuse Assessment and Reporting	7 contact hours
Human Sexuality	10 contact hours
Chemical Substance Abuse Dependency	1 semester unit (must be in degree program)
Spousal/Partner Abuse	1/1/1995-12/31/03: no hour requirement 1/1/04 and after: 15 contact hours (must be in degree program)
Psychological Testing	2 semester or 3 quarter units
Psychopharmacology	2 semester or 3 quarter units
California Law and Professional Ethics	2 semester or 3 quarter units
Aging and Long Term Care	1/1/04 and after: 10 contact hours

LCSW Pre-Licensure Required Coursework

Child Abuse Assessment and Reporting	7 contact hours
Human Sexuality	10 contact hours
Chemical Substance Abuse Requirement	15 contact hours
Spousal/Partner Abuse	1/1/1995-12/31/03: no hour requirement 1/1/04 and after: 15 contact hours
Aging and Long Term Care	1/1/04 and after: 10 contact hours

Note: The dates in this table refers to when a person enters his or her qualifying degree program.

Legislation Update

The Board took a position on the following legislation:

SB 229 (Committee on Professions and Vocations) - The Board supported this bill, which became effective January 1, 2006. It does all of the following:

- ◆ Extends the Board of Behavioral Sciences as a board through July 1, 2008.
- ◆ Caps MFT pre-degree hours at 1,300.
- ◆ Reorganizes and consolidates MFT experience provisions to make the law easier to read.
- ◆ Reinforces the Legislature's intent that revocation be required after a finding of fact that a licensee or registrant had sexual contact with a patient and prohibits the board from staying the revocation.
- ◆ Defines "discovers" as the date the board received a complaint or a release of information from the complainant, whichever arrives later.

All of the following legislation, which may be of interest to the professions, became effective January 1, 2006.

AB 776 - This bill permits mandated reporters of child abuse who are unable, after reasonable efforts, to submit a report by telephone to make an automated written report. It also prohibits agencies that are required to accept reports of child abuse or neglect from refusing to accept a report. Additionally, it requires the Department of Social Services to report on the reasons mandated reporters stated an automated written report was filed in lieu of the initial telephone report.

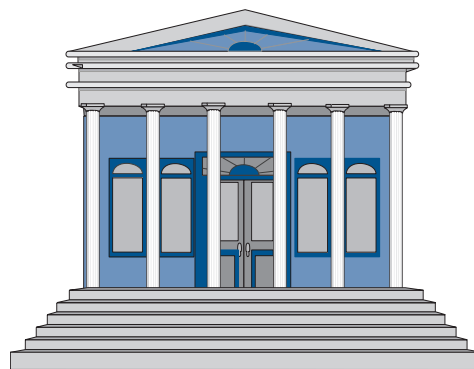
AB 800 - This bill requires all health facilities and primary care clinics to include a patient's principal spoken language on the patient's health records.

AB 1662 - This bill would make various revisions generally conforming state special education law to federal requirements relating to pupil identification, assessment, and eligibility; IEP development, including notice, representation, and hearing procedures and requirements; and pupil data confidentiality.

SB 231 - This bill would require an LEP, MFT Intern, or Associate Clinical Social Worker or his or her counsel to report to the BBS within 30 days any judgment, settlement, or arbitration award over \$3,000, resulting from a claim or action for damages for death or personal injury, when the LEP or registrant does not possess professional

liability insurance for that claim. This bill would also require an MFT, LCSW, or his or her counsel to report to the BBS within 30 days any judgment, settlement, or arbitration award over \$10,000, resulting from a claim or action for damages for death or personal injury, when the MFT or LCSW does not possess professional liability insurance for that claim.

SB 726 - This bill would authorize a court to order that a social worker conduct a home visit within 3 months of placing a child with a noncustodial parent and to file a report with the court after conducting that home visit. The bill would also require a social worker to provide a "Caregiver Information Form" to a caregiver of a child in order to provide information to a noncustodial parent who is seeking placement or custody of the child and to ensure that, if the foster parent completes the form, the completed form is returned to the court for review and consideration before the child is placed with the noncustodial parent.



For further information regarding the status of legislation see the California Legislative Information website at www.leginfo.ca.gov, which provides the bill's language, history, status, and analysis as provided by the California State Legislature or contact your professional association.

Regulation Update

Pending Regulations

Delegation of Authority: The Board proposes to adopt amendments to Section 1803 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). This section pertains to the delegation of certain functions by the Board to the executive officer. These amendments would allow the executive officer to sign orders to compel a psychiatric evaluation of a Board licensee or registrant as part of an investigation of a complaint.

Citations and Fines: The Board proposes to adopt amendments to Section 1886.40 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). This section pertains to the Board's citation and fine program for Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT), MFT Interns, Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), Associate Clinical Social Workers (ASW) and Licensed Educational Psychologists (LEP). These amendments would increase the maximum fine from \$2,500 to \$5,000 for specified violations.

Approved Regulations

All of the following are "Changes Without Regulatory Effect" (technical or editorial changes)

A. Effective February 22, 2006: Changes were made to Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Sections 1833.1, 1870, and 1870.1 due to some form updates. This includes revisions to the "Responsibility Statement for Supervisors of a Marriage and Family Therapist Trainee or Intern," "Responsibility Statement for Supervisors of an Associate Clinical Social Worker," and the "Supervisory Plan" for ASWs. The updated forms are available on the Board's website.

B. Effective December 18, 2005: Grammatical changes were made to the following sections: 1807.2, 1833, 1833.1, 1833.2, 1887.4, 1889, 1889.1, 1889.3.

C. Effective October 20, 2005: Changes were made in regulation and to related forms to conform with statutory changes, including deletion of the outdated requirement for a notice of termination of supervision, and clarifying that the "Supervisory Plan" form is required upon application for licensure. Several technical changes were also made. The affected sections are: 1870, 1870.1, and 1874.

For further information regarding regulations, see the Board's website at www.bbs.ca.gov/law-reg.htm.

Victims Compensation and Government Claims Board Improves Policies

To ensure that mental health services are readily available to victims of violent crime, the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (VCGCB) approved significant changes relating to mental health providers.

The VCGCB approved changes to mental health session limits and reporting requirements. Changes include:

- Once a provider has submitted a treatment plan after five sessions, and that plan is approved, no further reports are required unless the provider needs to request additional treatment beyond the initial session limits.
- Providers are no longer required to submit a Treatment Progress Report after 15 sessions in order for the remainder of the initial sessions to be authorized.
- The reimbursement rate for MFTs and LCSWs has been increased to a maximum of \$90 per session, up from \$70.
- The group therapy rate continues to be reimbursed at 40% of the individual therapy rate.

The VCGCB hopes these improvements will encourage all mental health professionals to reach out in offering their services to victims of violent crime.

The VCGCB will continue to regularly review the effect of the new guidelines and reimbursement rates. For more information, call the VCGCB's customer service unit at 800-777-9229 or visit the VCGCB website, www.victimcompensation.ca.gov, or on the Board's website at www.bbs.ca.gov/victims_vcgcb.htm.

Looking for a past issue of the *BBS News*? Check out the Board's Web site at www.bbs.ca.gov under "Forms and Publications."

Registrant Corner

Applications for Second Registration Numbers and the Exam Process

Note: “Registrant Corner” is a recurring article aimed at explaining the MFT and LCSW licensure process. For prior installments of the “Registrant Corner,” please see the previous issues of the *BBS News* available on the Forms and Publications section of the Board’s website.

When we last left Phil and Rhonda, each had completed the required coursework and supervised professional experience needed to sit for the Board’s licensure exam. As our brave prospective licensees prepare their respective applications for licensure, each realized time is running out on the registration number used to accumulate the hours of experience.

Applying for an Extension as an Associate Clinical Social Worker

Phil, a registered Associate with the BBS, contacts the Board to inquire about what to do in the event his registration number runs out while he is still in the process of taking his LCSW exams. From his conversation with a Social Work Evaluator, Phil learns that once the Board approves his application for licensure and admits him into the exam process, he does not need to keep his registration current in order to take the exam. All Phil needs to do to keep his approved hours of experience “locked in” is remember to take an exam at least once a year until he passes both exams. Failure to do so will result in the Board abandoning his application for licensure.

Now aware he does not need a current registration number to take the exam, Phil explains to the Social Work Evaluator that his place of employment requires him to keep a current Associate registration number. Phil’s registration as an Associate reaches its six-year limit for renewals on 10/31/2006, and he inquires if he is eligible for an extension. The Social Work Evaluator explains that six weeks before the registration expires, Phil needs to send in an Associate Clinical Social Worker Extension Application. Phil is eligible for up to three one-year extensions of his Associate number, provided he submits his application prior to the expiration date of his registration.

Phil can even apply for a second Associate number if he still needs to retain a number after his three-year extension phase concludes. The Social Work Evaluator directs Phil to the BBS website and instructs him to download an Associate Clinical Social Worker Registration Application from the “Forms and Publications” section of the BBS website as if he was applying for the first time. Phil would include the \$75 fee and the completed one page application. The transcripts will already be on file at the Board, and as long as Phil applies while his file is still active with the Board, he will not need to resubmit fingerprints with his application for a second Associate number.

Rhonda, like Phil, will think of the exam process and the registration process as two separate processes, each with their own important set of dates to remember.

In his conversation with the Social Work Evaluator, Phil also learned that the expiration date on his registration number does not apply to his exam process. He must take a licensing exam at least once a year to continue in the exam process. Phil decides to think of the exam process and the Associate registration process as two separate and independent processes altogether as he is sure this is the best way to make sure he does not miss any important dates.

Applying for a Second MFT Intern Number

Rhonda also realizes her six-year limit for renewal of her MFT Intern number is fast approaching, and the registration will expire 11/30/2006 while she is still in the exam process. Just as Phil did, Rhonda calls the Board and speaks with her assigned MFT Evaluator. Rhonda’s MFT Evaluator informs her that she may apply for another MFT Intern number if she needs to keep a registration current while in the MFT exam process. The MFT Evaluator directs Rhonda to the BBS website and instructs her to download an MFT Intern Registration application package from the “Forms and Publications” section. Once Rhonda completes the form, she will mail in the one page application along with the \$75 fee. As long as she applies while she still has an active file with the Board, Rhonda will not need to resubmit fingerprints. She will not need to submit transcripts again because they are still on file from her previous application.

In speaking with her evaluator about this situation, Rhonda also learned several other important facts. With this second Intern registration number, Rhonda cannot work in a private practice setting. Also, Rhonda discovered that she, like Phil, does not need to keep a current registration to participate in the exam; however, she chose to apply for a second number because her employer requires it. The MFT evaluator further explained to Rhonda the importance of participating in the exam once a year in order to keep Rhonda's hours "locked in." Rhonda, like Phil, will think of the exam process and the registration process as two separate processes, each with their own important set of dates to remember.

Rhonda and Phil relieved their anxiety about their registration numbers by contacting the Board to learn about the options available to individuals with expiring registration numbers who can no longer renew.

Abandonment of an Exam Application

Rhonda has a friend Diane. Diane did not remember to take an exam within one year after notification she was eligible for the exam or within one year of the date of her last exam. When Diane contacted the Board to find out how exactly she could resume the exam process, Diane's evaluator told her that the hours Diane initially used to qualify for the exam process are now too old. Diane earned her supervised experience hours over six years ago. Supervised experience hours can only be accepted within the most recent six years from the date the Board receives an application for LCSW or MFT licensure. Unfortunately for Diane, because she did not take the exam once a year to keep her hours "locked in," she now faces the daunting task of regaining her hours of experience to qualify her for the exam.

Diane received a hard lesson about the importance of taking an LCSW or MFT exam once a year to keep her hours "locked in."

Continue to look for new installments of the Registrant Corner in future newsletters. In the next issue, we will follow two new registrants as they work to understand the breakdown of the required hours of experience for LCSWs and MFTs.

Effective June 2006 for LCSW candidates and July 2006 for MFT candidates, the Board will add a maximum of one vignette and six pretests items to the clinical vignette examination.



The added test items will increase the length of the clinical vignette examination from 30 to 36 questions. Also, candidates will have an extra 30 minutes, bringing the time allowable for completion of the exam to 2 hours. Pretest questions will not be scored or identified for the candidate.

Editor's Note: Correction to Registrant Corner Article

In the previous edition of the *BBS News* (Fall 2005 - Issue 14), the "Registrant Corner" article contained an error regarding timelines for submission of supervision paperwork. Supervision paperwork does NOT need to be submitted within 30 days of commencement of supervision. The supervisor should sign the paperwork; then, the registrant will KEEP this paperwork until he or she completes all pre-licensure requirements and is ready to apply for MFT or LCSW licensure. All supervision paperwork can be downloaded off of the Forms and Publications section of the website.

BBS Staff Highlight

Let the Outreach Begin!

In November of 2005, Sean O'Connor was appointed as the Board's new Outreach Coordinator. Sean is the first to hold this position.

Sean began working for the Board in 2000 as a Student Assistant. Since that time, he has functioned as both an Associate Clinical Social Worker Evaluator and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker evaluator. As the Outreach Coordinator, Sean will travel to schools and attend consumer events, representing the Board and offering presentations to the Board's broad constituent base. Schools or event coordinators interested in contacting Sean may do so via his email address: sean_o'connor@dca.ca.gov.



Sean resides in Sacramento, California, and attends California State University, Sacramento, where he currently studies English and plans to enter the Masters program for public policy and administration in the Fall 2007.



BBS Outreach – Coming to a School Near You!

Upcoming School Outreach Events:

- May 2 - Alliant International University - MFT School Presentation
- May 9 - University of San Francisco, Santa Rosa Campus - MFT School Presentation
- May 11 - California State University, Sacramento - LCSW School Presentation
- May 22, 23 - California State University - San Bernardino: LCSW School Presentation
- July 8 - University of San Francisco, Sacramento Campus - MFT School Presentation

Attention Schools:

School officials and faculty interested in contacting the Board's Outreach Coordinator to schedule a presentation can do so via email at sean_o'connor@dca.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 574-7863. School presentations include a comprehensive explanation of the Board's licensure process. Students attending these presentations find the information useful on the path towards licensure.

Enforcement Actions

The following actions taken by the Board became effective 7/1/05 through 12/31/05. Additional information about each case, including copies of public documents, is available through the Board's website at www.bbs.ca.gov.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

BARASH, MELANEE

LCS 12172, CASE NO. LC-2004-232

SANTA CRUZ, CA

Alleged Grounds for Discipline: Unprofessional Conduct; incompetence; gross negligence; causing emotional harm; failure to keep records consistent with sound clinical judgment, the standards of the profession, and the nature of the services being rendered.

For approximately nine months, respondent engaged in a professional therapeutic relationship with a patient whom she diagnosed as suffering from Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Major Depressive Disorder. Respondent's incompetent treatment of the patient is reflected in respondent's treatment record. Respondent's 24-hour DID training with an unlicensed individual did not satisfactorily prepare her to adequately treat a patient with DID. Respondent allowed extreme levels of counter-transference to override sound clinical decisions in her treatment of the patient, thereby compromising the health and safety of the patient, who was suicidal. Respondent created a dual relationship, including a close personal relationship with a patient that was emotionally and physically predatory and clinically unsafe, thereby placing the patient at a greater risk and exposing the patient to the risk of emotional harm.

Disposition: By stipulation, voluntary surrender of license; cost recovery of \$7,132 prior to issuance of any new license. Effective 11/16/05.



CARTWRIGHT, LOUIS W.

MFC 32260, CASE NO. MF-2004-940

DUNSMUIR, CA

Alleged Grounds for Discipline: Unprofessional Conduct; gross negligence; incompetence; intentional or reckless emotional harm to a client; engaging in sexual relations with a client; conviction of a substantially related crime.

On two occasions respondent invited a client to his home where he engaged in sexual intercourse with the client.

On September 10, 2004, in the Superior Court of California, County of Siskiyou, respondent was convicted on his plea of nolo contendere to two counts of violating Business and Professions Code Section 729, a misdemeanor, for sexual exploitation of a client.

Disposition: By stipulation, revocation of license; respondent shall not reapply for licensure for a period of three years from the effective date; cost recovery of \$1,320 prior to the issuance of a new license. Effective 7/13/05.

CONTRERAS, NOEMI ELVIRA

LCS 15156, MFC 26012, CASE NO. DL-2003-620

GLENDALE, CA

Alleged Grounds for Discipline: Unprofessional Conduct; aiding and abetting unlicensed practice; misrepresentation.

Respondent aided and abetted an unlicensed person in the practice of marriage and family therapy at respondent's place of business for approximately two years. In the

Disciplinary Action Terminology

Revocation: License or registration is canceled and the right to practice ended.

Suspension: Respondent prohibited from practicing for a specific period of time.

Stayed: Revocation or suspension postponed and respondent put on probation.

Probation: Respondent may continue to practice under specific terms and conditions.

Voluntary Surrender: Respondent turns in the license or registration while charges are still pending - right to practice is ended.

Public Reprimand: Respondent issued a letter of reprimand resulting from a disciplinary action or pursuant to B&P Code section 495.

Writ of Mandate: Respondent appealed decision to the superior court.

same time period, respondent improperly used “psychological” in her business name, failed to inform patients of the name and license designation of the owner of the facility prior to commencement of treatment, and continued to operate her business while its corporate status was suspended.

Disposition: By stipulation, revocation of licenses, revocation stayed, five years’ probation. Terms and conditions include supervised practice, law and ethics course, reimbursement of probation program, cost recovery of \$1,500. Effective 11/16/05.

GIBSON, STEPHEN
IMF 39171, CASE NO. IM-2004-507
LONG BEACH, CA

Alleged Grounds for Discipline: Unprofessional Conduct; conviction of a substantially related crime.

On or about June 11, 2003, respondent was convicted in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, on a plea of nolo contendere for battery on school property, a misdemeanor.

Disposition: By stipulation, voluntary surrender of registration; cost recovery of \$2,000 prior to issuance of a new registration number. Effective 9/5/05.

MEYER, TODD
IMF 48786, CASE NO. AP-2004-569
LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA

Alleged Grounds for Discipline: Conviction of an alcohol related crime and conviction of a substantially related crime.

On or about December 1985, respondent was convicted of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a misdemeanor. On or about May 14 1987, respondent was convicted of petty theft, a misdemeanor. On or about October 23, 1991, in Riverside County Municipal Court, respondent was convicted of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a misdemeanor. On or about October 20, 1998, in Orange County Superior Court, respondent was convicted of driving while under the influence of alcohol and driving a vehicle while having a blood alcohol level of .08 or more, both misdemeanors. On or about July 23, 1999, in Orange County Superior Court, respondent was convicted of driving a



vehicle without registration, an infraction, and driving a vehicle without a driver’s license, a misdemeanor. On or about March 8, 2001, in Orange County Superior Court, respondent was convicted of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, driving while having a blood alcohol level of .08 or more, and driving on a license suspended or revoked for a conviction of section 23152, all misdemeanors.

Disposition: By stipulation, registration issued, immediately revoked, revocation stayed, placed on five years’ probation. Terms and conditions include law and ethics course, supervised practice, psychotherapy, abstain from controlled substances and use of alcohol, submit to biological fluid testing, reimbursement of probation program. Effective 9/9/05.

MCWHINNIE, BONNIE
IMF 42723, CASE NO. IM-2003-888
SIERRA MADRE, CA

Alleged Grounds for Discipline: Unprofessional Conduct; conviction of a substantially related crime; administering to herself or using any alcoholic beverage to an extent, or in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious, to herself, or any other person, or to the public, or to the extent that the use impairs the ability of the person holding a license to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by the license.

On January 29, 2004, respondent was convicted on her plea of nolo contendere, for driving under the influence of alcohol, a misdemeanor. On February 17, 2004, respondent was convicted, on pleas of nolo contendere, for one count of driving with a blood alcohol content of .08% or higher and one count of driving with a suspended or revoked license, both misdemeanors.

Disposition: By decision, revocation of registration; cost recovery of \$827. Effective 7/13/05.

NGUYEN, TRANG-ANH

ASW 7578, CASE NO. AS-2002-506

OAKLAND, CA

Alleged Grounds for Discipline: Unprofessional Conduct; engaging in sexual relations with a client; emotional harm to a client; negligence; incompetence.

Respondent began a therapeutic relationship with a client which lasted approximately 4 to 5 weeks. Respondent admitted terminating the therapeutic relationship in order to pursue an intimate and sexual relationship with the client.

Disposition: By stipulation, voluntary surrender of registration; cost recovery of \$18,187.25 prior to issuance of any registration or license. Effective 8/14/05.

PAULAUSKIS, VICKI

MFT 28013, CASE NO D1-2002-459

PALM DESERT, CA

Alleged Grounds for Discipline: Mental and/or Physical Unfitness to Practice.

On or about June 2, 2005, respondent underwent psychological evaluation and testing. The conclusion of the examiners is that respondent is not safe to practice as a marriage and family therapist.

Disposition: By stipulation, voluntary surrender of license; cost recovery of \$4,800 prior to issuance of any license. Effective 10/17/05

TORRES, JOSE LUIS

MFC 31241, CASE NO. MF-2005-564

WESTMINSTER, CA

Alleged Grounds for Discipline: Unprofessional Conduct; conviction of a substantially related crime; administering to himself or using any alcoholic beverage to an extent, or in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious, to himself, or any other person, or to the public, or to the extent that the use impairs the ability of the person holding a license to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by the license; commission of a dishonest, corrupt, or fraudulent act; commission of an act punishable as a sexually related crime.

On November 6, 2001, respondent pled guilty to indecent exposure and unlawful entry. Respondent was placed on



three years formal probation and ordered to register as a sex offender pursuant to Penal Code section 290.

Disposition: By default decision, revocation of license; cost recovery of \$1,251. Effective 8/14/05.

VALENTIN, VICTOR

LCS 19521, CASE NO. LC-2005-554

PALM DESERT, CA

Alleged Grounds for Discipline: Unprofessional Conduct; engaging in a sexual relationship with a client.

Respondent engaged in a sexual relationship and living arrangement with a client for a period of two months.

Disposition: By decision, revocation of license; cost recovery of \$5,583.50. Effective 9/5/05.



Senior Summit 2006

*Protecting and Serving
California's Aging Population*

Friday, May 12, 2006
Sacramento Convention Center
Sacramento, California

The Department of Consumer Affairs will convene a first ever California summit on senior consumer protection.

Local, state and federal agencies will discuss problems facing senior consumers. Panel presentations and interactive workshops will address these issues.

For further information see www.seniorsummit.ca.gov

Failure to comply with Continuing Education

Andrews, Joan Marie, MFC 15763, Fine Amount \$400

Aronson, Ruth A, LCS 9317, Fine Amount \$150

Avery, Jeffery Carr, MFC 30660, Fine Amount \$150

Boerste, Dorothy M, MFC 35737, Fine Amount \$250

Bryan, Susan, MFC 28298, Fine Amount \$750

Bryant, Victoria Katherine, MFC 32887, Fine Amount \$150

Bugental, Elizabeth K., MFC 5601, Fine Amount \$200

Canelo, Christine Marie, MFC 23866, Fine Amount \$150

Carrin, S. June, MFC 14532, Fine Amount \$100

Chacon, Vercila E., LCS 17841, Fine Amount \$150

Cowick, Patricia G., MFC 30680, Fine Amount \$150

Dougherty, Michele J., LCS 13019, Fine Amount \$300

Fefferman, Stephen Lloyd, MFC 21379, Fine Amount \$150

Franklin, Daniel Jay, MFC 34333, Fine Amount \$150

Garcia, Robyn Terry, MFC 20523, Fine Amount \$150

Goldberg, Phyllis G., MFC 16868, Fine Amount \$250

Helou, Kholud Noor, MFC 38277, Fine Amount \$150

Henretig, Jaclyn, MFC 16898, Fine Amount \$250

Korn, Miriam, MFC 23649, Fine Amount \$300

Hsieh, Stephen C., LCS 16782, Fine Amount \$150

Krebs, Francis Joseph, LCS 17502, Fine Amount \$150

Landes, Doreen Weissman, MFC 30878, Fine Amount \$150



Lazar, Patricia Leah, MFC 23655, Fine Amount \$150

Lefferman, Elias T., LCS 7895, Fine Amount \$150

Lenke, Michael Lowe, MFC 11822, Fine Amount \$150

Maag, Jeannette Ann, LCS 3627, Fine Amount \$300

Marrin, Lynn Lawrence, MFC 36418, Fine Amount \$250

Mc Clune, Edward Joseph, MFC 38059, Fine Amount \$150

Metzner, Linda Susan, LCS 6560, Fine Amount \$300

Morda, Vincent Stephen, MFC 38672, Fine Amount \$150

Oakes, Judith A., LCS 15717, Fine Amount \$300

O'Connor, Dorothy Marie, MFC 6663, Fine Amount \$100

Pook Cynthia Marie, MFC 33066, Fine Amount \$150

Purish, Ellen Carol, LCS 10522, Fine Amount \$250

Rothblatt, James, MFC 32234, Fine Amount \$100

Roybal, Kathy Ruth, MFC 18568, Fine Amount \$150

Royer, Joanne Beth, MFC 28697, Fine Amount \$300

Ruhs, Bill, MFC 25246, Fine Amount \$150

Schaff, Sandra, LCS 19331, Fine Amount \$150

Shore, Marilyn Ann, MFC 18597, Fine Amount \$150

Speed, Roger Ivan, LCS 7240, Fine Amount \$150

Spiers, Holly M. Z., MFC 40800, Fine Amount \$400

Strum, Nanci Charlotte, LCS 19247, Fine Amount \$300

Turner, Thomas David, MFC 18649, Fine Amount \$150

Breach of Confidentiality

Colladay, Jonathan S., MFC 27095, Fine Amount \$2,500

Perkins, Sally Louise, MFC 19082, Fine Amount \$250

Rosengarten, Arthur Edward, MFC 21121, Fine Amount \$1,000

Aiding & Abetting Unlicensed Practice

Lee, Barbara Raven, LCS 11350, Fine Amount \$750

Failing to Keep & Maintain Records

Western, Polly Brooks, MFC 20435, Fine Amount \$500

Failure to Disclose Convictions

Barnes, Benjamin, IMF 36295, Fine Amount \$500

***Policy of Nondiscrimination
on the Basis of Disability and
Equal Employment Opportunity
Statement***

The Board of Behavioral Sciences does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or in the admission and access to its programs or activities.

The Executive Officer of the Board has been designated to coordinate and carry out this agency's compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Information concerning the provisions of the ADA, and the rights provided thereunder, are available from the ADA Coordinator.

Examination Statistics

	Exam Dates	Total Examinees	1st Time Takers
MFT Written	1/1/05 - 6/30/05	874 Part. 42% Passed	601 Part. 56% Passed
	7/1/05 - 12/31/05	947 Part. 61% Passed	604 Part. 74% Passed
MFT Written Clinical	1/1/05 - 6/30/05	1289 Part. 53% Passed	781 Part. 52% Passed
	7/1/05 - 12/31/05	932 Part. 59% Passed	554 Part. 65% Passed
LCSW Written	12/1/04 - 5/31/05	634 Part. 50% Passed	405 Part. 60% Passed
	6/1/05 - 11/30/05	718 Part. 56% Passed	414 Part. 66% Passed
LCSW Written Clinical	12/1/04 - 5/31/05	602 Part. 54% Passed	405 Part. 57% Passed
	6/1/05 - 11/30/05	790 Part. 46% Passed	276 Part. 64% Passed
LEP Written	1/1/05 - 6/30/05	58 Part. 59% Passed	44 Part. 78% Passed
	7/1/05 - 12/31/05	55 Part. 62% Passed	41 Part. 68% Passed

BBS CHANGE OF ADDRESS REQUEST FORM

Please type or print clearly in ink. Be sure to provide all information. Allow 30 days for processing.

LICENSE OR REGISTRATION NUMBER(S): (indicate **all** BBS licenses and/or registrations and their types to which this change applies):

NAME (as it appears on your license or registration):

SSN or FEIN (not required of PCEs):

FORMER ADDRESS:

CITY / STATE / ZIP:

TELEPHONE:

NEW ADDRESS:

CITY / STATE / ZIP:

TELEPHONE:

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

ORIGINAL SIGNATURE:

DATE:

☐ I would like to order a replacement wall license or registration certificate that will reflect my new address - **\$20.00 FEE**. (Include the fee **and** your old license or registration certificate with this Change of Address Request Form. Requests for a replacement certificate received without the fee or certificate cannot be processed; however, your address will still be updated.)

Please note that your address of record with the Board (the address displayed on your license, or registration) is public information and is released to the public upon request and will be placed on the Board's Web site.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

1625 North Market Boulevard, Suite S-200

Sacramento, CA 95834

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